

Remarks:

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated June 29, 2006, and are being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111. Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,801,856 to Moghadam et al. ("Moghadam"). Applicants traverse the rejections, contending that the rejected claims are patentable over Moghadam.

Nevertheless, to expedite the issuance of a patent, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention that applicants would like to patent now, applicants have (1) canceled claims 1-4, 11, 14, 16, 23, 24, and 30, without prejudice; (2) amended claims 5-9, 12, 13, 18, 20-22, 25-27, and 29; and (3) added new claims 31-34. However, applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims, in original and/or amended form, at a later time. Furthermore, applicants have presented remarks showing that claims 5-10, 12, 13, 15, 17-22, 25-29, and 31-34 are patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability covering all of the pending claims.

I. Claim Amendments

The present communication amends claims 5-9, 12, 13, 18, 20-22, 25-27, and 29, and adds new claims 31-34. Each of the amendments to the claims is fully supported by the application. Exemplary support for the amendments to the independent claims and for each of the new claims is provided, without limitation, in the following table:

Claim	Support
13 (Independent)	Page 10, lines 4-18
18 (Independent)	Page 10, lines 4-18
31 (New) (Independent)	Claim 1; page 7, lines 24-27
32 (New)	Page 7, lines 25-26
33 (New)	Page 7, lines 25-26
34 (New)	Page 10, lines 4-18

II. Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected each of the pending claims as being anticipated by Moghadam. Applicants traverse the rejections, contending that the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest every element of any of the pending claims. Nevertheless, to expedite the issuance of a patent, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention that applicants would like to patent now, applicants have (1) canceled claims 1-4, 11, 14, 16, 23, 24, and 30, without prejudice; (2) amended claims 5-9, 12, 13, 18, 20-22, 25-27, and 29; and (3) added new claims 31-34. Each of independent claims 31, 13, 18, and 27, and all of their dependent claims, are patentable for the reasons set forth below.

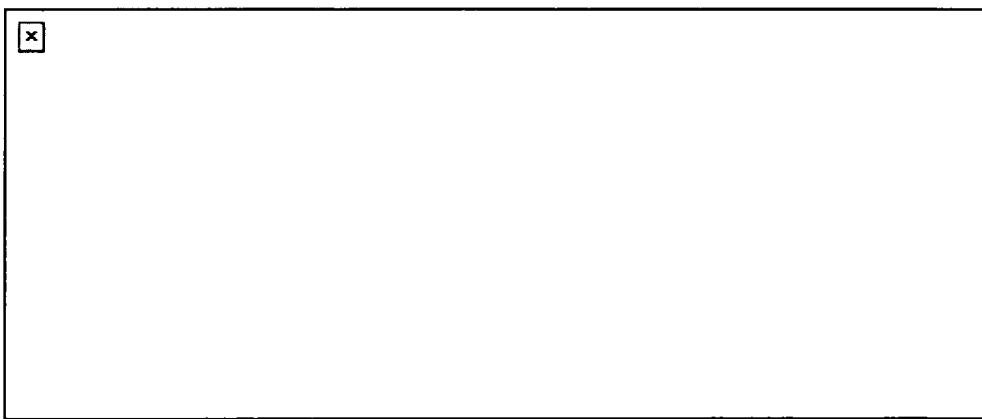
A. Claim 31 and Dependent Claims 5-10, 12, 32, and 33

New independent claim 31 is directed to a method of encrypting an image:

31. (New) A method of encrypting a document, comprising:
affixing an adhesive label to a document, the adhesive label being optically readable to identify a public key that is a public member of an asymmetric public-private pair of cryptography keys;
digitizing the document after the step of applying to create a digital image of the document and the adhesive label;
identifying the public key using the digital image; and
encrypting at least a portion of the digital image with the identified public key.

Claim 31 is patentable over Moghadam because this reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest every element of new claim 31. For example, Moghadam does not disclose, teach, or suggest "affixing an adhesive label to a document, the adhesive label being optically readable to identify a public key."

Moghadam relates to secure photographic systems. Figure 1 illustrates an example of a secure photographic system according to Moghadam:



In this system, an image bearing medium 10, namely photographic film or a printed photograph, has an image 12 and indicia 14 for a security feature. Medium 10 is

scanned by a scanner 16, to generate digital image I, and an indicia detector 18 senses the indicia to produce a signal S corresponding to the security feature. A processor 20 applies the security feature S to digital image I, by encrypting the digital image, to create a secure digital image of the film or printed photograph. Significantly, Moghadam does not disclose, teach, or suggest the use of the secure photographic systems with documents (i.e., not for text).

Moghadam discloses particular indicia 14 to represent a security feature. In particular, the reference states:

The indicia may be applied for example by apparatus in a camera or photographic printer, or by apparatus separate from a camera or printer, and may be applied by a photographer at the time of using the film, or by a factory at the time of making the film or paper. The indicia may take the form of, for example, exposed areas on the film, magnetic recording on a magnetic layer or track on the film or paper print, notches or holes placed in the film (such as in the non-image bearing borders of the film), or printing or code such as a bar code on the back of a photographic print. (col. 3, lines 32-44)

However, Moghadam does not disclose, teach, or suggest “affixing an adhesive label to a document, the adhesive label being optically readable to identify a public key,” as recited by independent claim 31. More particularly, Moghadam involves photographic film and photographs and thus does not disclose, teach, or suggest any use of a document (i.e., a substrate bearing text). Even more particularly, Moghadam does not disclose, teach, or suggest affixing an optically readable adhesive label to a document. Instead, according to the passage quoted above, Moghadam discloses magnetic indicia, printed indicia (on the back of a photographic print), notches or holes in film, or

exposed areas on film. Accordingly, claim 31 should be allowed over the cited reference. Furthermore, claims 5-10, 12, 32, and 33, which depend from claim 31, also should be allowed for least the same reasons as claim 31.

B. Claims 13, 15, 17, and 34

Independent claim 13, as amended, is directed to a method of sending an encrypted image:

13. (Currently Amended) A method of sending an encrypted image of a document, comprising:

disposing a physical tag on a document, the physical tag having a glyph code with public-key identifying information ~~that carries a public key~~;

digitizing the document to create a digital image that includes a digital representation of the glyph code;

reading the digital representation of the glyph code to obtain the public key;

encrypting the digital image with the obtained public key; and

sending the encrypted image to a recipient that holds a private key, the private key forming an asymmetric public-private pair of cryptography keys with the public key.

Claim 13 is patentable over Moghadam because the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest every element of amended claim 13. For example, Moghadam does not disclose, teach, or suggest "disposing a physical tag on a document, the physical tag having a glyph code with public-key identifying information." In particular, Moghadam does not disclose, teach, or suggest the use of a document (i.e., a substrate bearing text). Furthermore, Moghadam does not disclose, teach, or suggest any use of a glyph code, that is, a machine-readable code embedded in a logo, a picture, a design, and/or text (e.g., see application, page 10, lines 16-18). Instead, Moghadam involves

the use of a barcode that is not disclosed to be a glyph code. Claim 13 thus should be allowed. Claims 15, 17, and 34, which depend from claim 13, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 13.

C. Claims 18-22, 25, and 26

Independent claim 18, as amended, is directed to a device for encrypting an image:

18. (Currently Amended) A device for encrypting an image produced from spatially-distributed physical information, the device comprising:

at least one digitizing mechanism adapted to digitize spatially-distributed physical information to create a digital image, and to digitize a glyph code physical tag associated with the physical information ~~to create a digital tag~~, the glyph code digital tag being readable to identify a public key that is a public member of an asymmetric public-private pair of cryptography keys; and

a processor operatively connected to the digitizing mechanism and adapted to receive the digital image and a digital representation of the glyph code digital tag from the at least one digitizing mechanism, to read the digital representation of the glyph code digital tag to identify the public key, and to encrypt the image with the identified public key.

Claim 18 is patentable over Moghadam because the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest every element of amended claim 18. For example, Moghadam does not disclose, teach, or suggest a processor adapted "to read the digital representation of the glyph code to identify the public key." In particular, Moghadam does not disclose, teach, or suggest any use of a glyph code, that is, a machine-readable code embedded in a logo, a picture, a design, and/or text (e.g., see application, page 10, lines 16-18). Instead, Moghadam involves the use of a barcode that is not disclosed to be a glyph

code. Claim 18 thus should be allowed. Claims 19-22, 25, and 26, which depend from claim 18, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 18.

D. Claims 27-29

Independent claim 27, as amended, is directed to a program storage device:

27. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a processor, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the processor to perform method steps for encrypting an image produced from physical information, comprising:

digitizing spatially-distributed physical information to create a digital image of the information;

digitizing a glyph code ~~physical tag~~ associated with the physical information ~~to create a digital tag, the digital tag being~~ and readable to identify a public key that is a public member of an asymmetric public-private pair of cryptography keys;

reading a digital representation of the glyph code produced by digitizing the glyph code ~~the digital tag~~ to identify the public key; and

encrypting the digital image with the identified public key.

Claim 27 is patentable over Moghadam because the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest every element of amended claim 27. For example, Moghadam does not disclose, teach, or suggest "reading a digital representation of the glyph code produced by digitizing the glyph code." In particular, Moghadam does not disclose, teach, or suggest any use of a glyph code, that is, a machine-readable code embedded in a logo, a picture, a design, and/or text (e.g., see application, page 10, lines 16-18). Instead, Moghadam involves the use of a barcode that is not disclosed to be a glyph code. Claim 27 thus should be allowed. Claims 28 and 29, which depend from claim 27, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 27.

III. Conclusion

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering all of the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on September 29, 2006.

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